



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 445

January Session, 2015

Substitute Senate Bill No. 966

Senate, April 2, 2015

The Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement reported through SEN. BARTOLOMEO of the 13th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EXAMINERS AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 19a-112g of the general statutes is repealed and
2 the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

3 (a) As used in this section: ["sexual assault forensic examiner"]

4 (1) "Sexual assault forensic examiner" means a registered nurse or
5 advanced practice registered nurse licensed pursuant to chapter 378 or
6 a physician licensed pursuant to chapter 370; [.] and

7 (2) "Health care facility" means a facility (A) operated by an
8 institution of higher education, (B) licensed by the Department of
9 Public Health as an infirmary operated by an educational institution or
10 as an outpatient clinic, and (C) accredited by the Joint Commission or
11 the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care.

12 (b) A sexual assault forensic examiner may provide immediate care
 13 and treatment to a victim of sexual assault who is a patient in an acute
 14 care hospital or in a health care facility and [may] collect evidence
 15 pertaining to the investigation of any sexual assault in accordance with
 16 the State of Connecticut Technical Guidelines for Health Care
 17 Response to Victims of Sexual Assault, published by the Commission
 18 on the Standardization of the Collection of Evidence in Sexual Assault
 19 Investigations pursuant to section 19a-112a. Services provided by a
 20 sexual assault forensic examiner shall be: (1) In accordance with the
 21 [hospital's] policies and accreditation standards of the acute care
 22 hospital or health care facility; and (2) pursuant to a written agreement
 23 entered into by the (A) acute care hospital [, the] or health care facility,
 24 (B) Department of Public Health, [the] and (C) Office of Victim
 25 Services concerning the [hospital's] participation of the acute care
 26 hospital or health care facility in the sexual assault forensic examiners
 27 program. Nothing in this section shall be construed as altering the
 28 scope of the practice of nursing as set forth in section 20-87a.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	July 1, 2015	19a-112g
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Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Subsec. (b), "iii" was changed to "(C)" for internal consistency.

HED *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in no fiscal impact to the state as it is procedural in nature.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 966*****AN ACT CONCERNING SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EXAMINERS AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill allows sexual assault forensic examiners (SAFEs) to treat sexual assault victims who are patients in a health care facility operated by a higher education institution. The health care facility must be:

1. licensed by the Department of Public Health (DPH) as an infirmary operated by an educational institution as an outpatient clinic and
2. accredited by the Joint Commission or the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care.

The bill requires SAFE services to be:

1. aligned with the policies and accreditation standards of the respective health care facility and
2. pursuant to a written agreement between the health care facility and (a) DPH and (b) the Office of Victim Services, about the facility's participation in the SAFE program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015

BACKGROUND***Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners***

As defined in existing law, SAFEs are either state-licensed (1) registered nurses, (2) advanced practice registered nurses, or (3) physicians (CGS § 19a-112g).

Joint Commission

The Joint Commission is an independent, nonprofit organization that accredits and certifies more than 20,500 health care organizations and programs in the United States.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 17 Nay 0 (03/19/2015)